

HELENA OPEN LANDS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

November 10, 2015

Room 326, City-County Building  
5:37 to 6:33 pm

Wirak, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:37.

A quorum was present: Dan Wirak, Clint Morrison, Eric Sivers, Jim Philips, Jane Kollmeyer, Ann Gilkey, and Betsy Miller. Also, Nate Kopp with PPLT, and staff Brad Langsather.

**Minutes:**

Minutes from the September 10, 2015 meeting were presented. Please note: the HOLMAC met in the field the in October and as such no formal meeting and minutes were prepared.

**General Discussions:**

- Sivers moved and approved the September 10, 2015 minutes. Kollmeyer seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Wirak asked for an update on the potential land purchase near the Beattie street trail head. Kopp and Langsather noted that PPLT sent a letter regarding the potential purchase of the property to the land owner, but have not yet received a response. Kollmeyer noted that she may know that particular land owner and may reach out to them to see if they have received the letter. She will also inquire what their position, or future plans are for that property. Langsather also noted that he too will follow up.
- Philips discussed the idea of having Carroll College students become open land ambassadors as it may qualify to meet some of their service requirements. No official action appeared to be taken in this regard.
- Langsather and the committee discussed at length the upcoming public hearing that will be on the 4 lot purchase and transfer of land near the Arrowroot road/Mount Ascension area. With that purchase, Helena open lands will cross over 2,000 total acres under ownership/management. The lots will be purchased with Fish Wildlife & Parks funds along with Lewis & Clark open space funds.
- Langsather discussed the Community Forest grant application which is due in early January 2016. He noted to receive the grant, the application needs to highlight a few goals. For instance, an “educational” component is a key attribute along with economic benefits. Langsather is very confident about the economic benefit aspects as he’s been working on the merchantability aspect of the beetle-killed trees that can be harvested and made into furniture by an Omish mill near Gold Creek Montana. Also, similarly, much of the wood can be donated to the LEAP program for low income families heating needs. For the educational aspect he wants to explore some ideas with Carroll College and the local high schools and middle schools. The community forest grant work will cover approximately 140 acres and is in the Arrowroot road and Mount Ascension area.
- Langsather discussed that he is working on drafting a letter to the Alpine Meadow Home Owners Association regarding road maintenance. Helena Open space owns properties that is

part of this association, however, there does not appear to be any road maintenance being done near the City properties, yet the City is paying those homeowner association dues.

- Langsather noted that the field review of the Saddle Drive/Folf course trail has been completed and he expects the Fish Wildlife & Parks will sign off of its completion and reimburse the costs in accordance with the grant funding.
- Langsather noted that Mount Ascension will need a formal kiosk much like the one now at the main trail head to Mount Helena.
- Sivers moved to adjourn the meeting. Kollmeyer second the motion. Meeting adjourned.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** December 8, 2015 at 5:30 City County Building.

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:**